**Proposal for Strategic Investment Fund 2017**

**Youth strategy development for Livestock CRP**

As the livestock sector continues to expand, it can provide exciting new opportunities for young people. This is the basic premise upon which the Livestock CRP is developing its youth inclusive research strategy, in response to the recognition of the continued growth in young populations in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the need to leverage agriculture to provide employment and livelihood opportunities for them. This will only be possible if new approaches to engaging young people in the livestock sector are identified and implemented. On the other hand young women and men face specific challenges in terms of limited capacity, low access to resources (e.g. land, livestock) and capital, as well as possibly social norms that may prevent youths from engaging in livestock (agriculture being seen as ‘old fashioned’).

In shaping the youth strategy, key questions will include:

1. What drives young people into and out of livestock activities?
2. What are young people’s aspirations in the livestock sector? And what is the reality?
3. Under what circumstances would young people benefit from increased participation in livestock value chains and production systems?
4. What interventions would enhance the benefits that young people derive from livestock? What opportunities are there for young people to bring their skills (for example in ICT) to bear on the livestock sector, enhancing communication and service delivery?
5. What options would be more strategic for the Livestock CRP, e.g. focusing on youth employment as part of business models in value chain integrated work versus tapping into the opportunities offered in the other flagships in terms of technologies and their delivery that can be considered youth-focused?

The work will be coordinated by the Youth Expert, on joint appointment with ILRI and KIT, partly funded by the Dutch YEP Programme. Working closely with the CRP management and flagship teams, the work aims at developing the strategy on youth of the LIVESTOCK CRP. The main activities and associated timelines will be:

1. Conduct assessments as input to the youth strategy (months 1 to 6)
   * This would include literature review of youth strategies or initiatives developed by other agricultural research and development programs, focusing on livestock if available. This would include other CRPs, and their approaches to include youth in their work including on how the work is being resourced
   * It will build on on-going youth initiatives led by the different CRP partners, for example the ILRI-led youth initiatives (youth strategy in the ILRI-led Accelerating Value Chain Development (AVCD) project in Kenya)
   * To accommodate available time and budget, assessments will be conducted in selected countries only, where the CRP has significant activities on going. We will target Kenya (dairy and livestock- under bilateral project), Ethiopia (small ruminants- CRP and bilateral funds if possible), Nicaragua (dairy- due to language barriers and travel costs from East Africa, we propose that CIAT conducts the assessment with CRP providing methods and funds for data collection) and Uganda (pig- CRP funds). It will also include a review of existing tools to systematically scope the opportunities and challenges facing young people
2. Conduct partners landscaping and consultations as input to the youth strategy (months 1 to 6)
   * CRP flagship teams will be engaged from the start, to get their inputs early on as well as their buy-in
   * This would include assessing who is working on youth in the CRP’s focus systems and value chains in priority countries; conceptualization and categorization of youth; opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship what are their approaches; who are their partners; what lessons can be drawn from their experience so far
   * It will include consultations with stakeholders to identify strategic partners to be engaged in subsequent years
3. Draft youth strategy and implementation plan (months 6 to 8)
   * This would consolidate the work from the first two activities
   * It is envisaged that the strategy will be partly implemented through a call for mainstreaming youth in all the flagship research activities, in a similar way as the gender mainstreaming call during the 1st phase of CRP. Details on the call will be agreed when finalising the strategy.
4. Finalise youth strategy through a stakeholders feedback consultation (months 9 to12)
   * The draft strategy will be presented to stakeholders, including the strategic partners identified during the 2nd activity, and therefore finalised.
   * Finally, the youth strategy will be presented to the Livestock CRP management committee for review and endorsement.
   * Before end of the year, a call for mainstreaming youth activities will be launched for activities to start early 2018.

**Budget**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost items** | **Details** | **USD** |
| Wouter (68%) | Overall coordination, literature review, partners engagement, strategy writing | 54,000 |
| Sikhalazo (5%) | Stakeholders engagement; review of intermediate outputs | 12,965 |
| Travel costs and stakeholders workshop | Stakeholders consultations and draft strategy feedback consultation (back to back with another event)  Selected field work to get ‘voices from the youths’- 3 sites @ USD5,000 each (Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Uganda)[[1]](#footnote-1) | 3,505  15,000 |
| ILRI overheads (17%) |  | 14,530 |
| **Total** |  | **100,000** |

1. Field work in Kenya has already been conducted and was funded through bilateral funds [↑](#footnote-ref-1)